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General and complete disarmament: establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia

Letter dated 20 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In the capacity of organizer of the Consultative Meeting of Experts of the Central Asian Countries, the Nuclear-Weapon States and the United Nations held in Bishkek on 9 and 10 July 1998, with a view to elaborating acceptable ways and means for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the communiqué adopted by the meeting participants as a final document (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 72 (s) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Zamira B. **Eshmambetova**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz
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Annex

Communiqué of the Consultative Meeting of Experts of the Central Asian Countries, the Nuclear-Weapon States and the United Nations, held in Bishkek on 9 and 10 July 1998

On 9 and 10 July 1998, the Consultative Meeting of Experts of the Central Asian States, and the Nuclear-Weapon States and the United Nations was held in Bishkek with a view to elaborating acceptable ways and means for the practical implementation of the initiative on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. At the meeting, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan submitted a document entitled "Basic elements of the treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia", which reflects the intention of the States of the region to prepare the legal groundwork for the Central Asian initiative. During the discussion, experts from the United Nations, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America made preliminary comments and recommendations on the document entitled "Basic elements of the treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia".

In an informal discussion, the participants of the Consultative Meeting exchanged opinions on the document that had been submitted and considered further steps to be taken with a view to preparing the document and, on the whole, establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

On the basis of the outcome of the Consultative Meeting, the participants noted the following:

1. The Central Asian States have made some progress in drafting a legal document on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

2. It is necessary to continue working consultations on the basic elements of the future nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, taking into consideration the proposals and observations made at the Consultative Meeting of Experts.

The Central Asian States acknowledge that consultations between experts from nuclear-weapon States on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia would be very useful.